

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 Claims 1-5 (canceled)

1 6. (currently amended) A patient lifting apparatus, comprising:

2 an upright member;

3 a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from
4 one location to another;

5 a support structure for attaching said upright member to a bed frame, said support structure
6 being arranged to transfer torque from the lifting apparatus to the bed frame during
7 operation, said support structure comprising a lower support bar that extends across
8 the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective leg of the bed frame;

9 and

10 a telescoping foot member that extends from the lower support bar and is movable between
11 a stored position and an extended position for stabilizing the apparatus during use;

12 and

13 wherein said support structure includes an upper support bar that extends across the bed
14 frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective side of the headboard of the
15 bed frame.

1 7. (canceled)

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1 8. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 7 6, wherein
2 said upper support bar comprises a pair of clamps positioned at respective ends thereof for
3 engaging the respective sides of the headboard of the bed frame.

1 9. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
2 said support structure comprises an upper bearing that allows smooth rotation of the upright
3 member relative to the bed frame, and a lower bearing that transfers the vertical force of a
4 patient's weight into the bed frame.

1 Claims 10 - 13. (canceled)

1 Claims 14-15 (canceled)

1 16. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 17,
2 wherein:
3 said lower attachment system of the support structure comprises a lower support bar that
4 extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective leg of
5 the bed frame.; and
6 further comprising a telescoping foot member that extends from the lower support bar and
7 is movable between a stored position and an extended position for stabilizing the
8 apparatus during use.

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1 17. (previously presented) In combination, a bed frame and a patient lifting
2 apparatus, said bed frame comprising a plurality of legs and a headboard, said patient lifting
3 apparatus comprising:

4 an upright member;

5 a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from
6 one location to another;

7 a support structure having an upper attachment system that secures the upright member to
8 the headboard, and a lower attachment system that secures the upright member to at
9 least one of the legs, said support structure being arranged to transfer torque from the
10 lifting apparatus into the bed frame during operation; and

11 wherein said upper attachment system of the support structure comprises an upper support
12 bar that extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective
13 side of the headboard of the bed frame.

1 18. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 17,
2 wherein said upper attachment system comprises an upper bearing that allows smooth rotation of
3 the upright member relative to the bed frame, and said lower attachment system comprises a
4 lower bearing that transfers the vertical force of a patient's weight into the bed frame.

1 19. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 17, further
2 comprising a support arm mechanically associated with the upright member that rotates along
3 with the boom about a generally vertical axis and engages a floor on which the bed is supported

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4 to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor via the support arm rather than via
5 the bed frame.

1 20. (canceled)